

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding Restriction Requirement mailed May 20, 2004, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-16), and as discussed below, Applicants request rejoinder of all groups, particularly Group VIII.

Applicants note that claims 13-16 of Group I are drawn to methods for activating a postsynaptic membrane by using biglycan, while claims 1-12 of Group I are drawn to methods for stabilizing DAPC by using biglycan. Claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants have amended claim 13 merely to correct a typographic error.

Applicants have added claims 32-38 which are fully supported by original claims (e.g., claims 2-12) and the specification (e.g., page 5, lines 12-27; the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15; page 15, lines 26-33). No new matter has been introduced by the new claims. Applicants submit that new claims 32-38 belong to Group I because they depend ultimately from claim 13.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement for the reasons which follow. Applicants particularly request rejoinder of claim 30 of Group VIII. Group I and Group VIII share common features that would facilitate searching these groups at once. For example, Applicants note that Group VIII (claim 30), drawn to a method for identifying an agent which modulates the interaction between MuSK and biglycan, shares a common technical feature with certain claims of Group I (e.g., claims 14 and 15), namely, relationship between biglycan and MuSK. Pursuant to MPEP §803, “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.”

Applicants further note that Groups IV-IX each contain only one claim. Accordingly, simultaneous examination of Groups I and IV-IX, or at least Groups I and VIII, will not impose a substantial additional burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

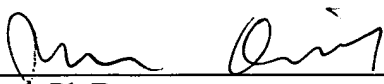
CONCLUSION

The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945**.

Respectfully Submitted,

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